



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Special Meeting of October 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Obata, O'Donnell, Rasheed, Rennels and Chair Godfrey.

Vice Chair Swaminathan arrived at 4:15 pm and Commissioner Moore arrived at 4:23 pm.

Oral Communications: Guests David Rich and Ian from the Bikeways for Fremont Meetup Group spoke regarding their interest in making Fremont more bicycle friendly. In particular, David Rich discussed the current blockages from Warm Springs for bicyclists trying to cross over the freeway and the lack of a right-of-way at the railroad track on Auto Mall.

Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting minutes of September 4, 2014 were approved unanimously by the Commission.

5.1 Warm Springs Last Mile Transit Program:

Guy Ferguson from the City Manager's Office spoke on the planned "Last Mile" transit program in the Warm Springs/South Fremont area. The City is in the process of applying for funding from the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant program to develop a detailed strategy for the implementation and operation of a multimodal transit program designed to address the "last mile" connection challenges between the new Warm Springs/South Fremont BART station and existing employment centers within close proximity to the station. It is the City's intent to apply this strategy towards implementation and operation of the Program. The application is due within a week of this meeting, and the funding will be awarded in July of 2015.

A discussion followed, with the following points:

- The Plan should focus on making the area walkable and bike friendly
- The plan should include transit options not just for employers/employees, but also for residents of the community
- A shuttle should not be focused only on morning and evening commutes, but also for lunch, errands, and retail, similar to the Emery-Go-Round in Emeryville.

- A Warm Springs transit program should integrate with the Pacific Commons shopping center.

Guy Ferguson thanked the Commission for their feedback.

Commissioner Rennels motioned to approve Chair Godfrey or his designee to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Commission regarding the City's grant application to fund a last mile transit study, and the motion was approved unanimously.

5.2 Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP):

The Commission reviewed the City's Draft Energy Plan for the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP), due November 10 to GUEP for consideration to compete as a semifinalist in the 2 year energy savings competition. Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco presented the information that Fremont had thus far assembled, which addresses the following eight categories as required by the GUEP Program Guidelines:

1. Program Management and Partners
2. Energy Savings Plan
3. Utility Data Reporting
4. Program Innovation
5. Potential for Replication
6. Likely Future Performance
7. Marketing, Education & Outreach
8. Preliminary Plan for Prize Purse

In the Plan, DiFranco is named as the GUEP Program Lead, with Deputy Director of Community Development Dan Schoenholz as GUEP Program Oversight and the Environmental Sustainability Commission as the GUEP Steering Committee.

For funding, there is an annual Climate Action/Sustainability budget of \$25,000, some of which can be used for implementation of initiatives during the competition. Furthermore, if Fremont's plan is approved and the City advances to the semifinalist competition round, PG&E will give the City a \$20,000 gift to go toward energy efficiency programs.

DiFranco also highlighted that Fremont plans to leverage the resources of existing energy and sustainability programs that serve the community, including the resources and programs offered through PG&E, ACWD, StopWaste, BayREN, and other regional organizations.

The Commission expressed interest in adding additional information about securing monetary donations and in-kind contributions from major community players such as Kaiser, Washington Hospital, Dale Hardware, and Fremont Bank.

DiFranco then discussed the following specific strategies that Fremont is including in the Plan:

- Promotion of existing residential resources for energy efficiency and solar projects
 - CYES Green House Calls (available to 250+ homes every summer)

- Home Energy Analyzer online tool (free for residents in Alameda County)
- Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade rebates (up to \$6,500)
- Federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit (due to expire 12/31/2016)
- CaliforniaFIRST PACE financing (just released in Alameda County in Sept.)
- Engagement with public schools on concepts of energy and sustainability
- Development of a “Solarize” residential group solar purchase
- Launch of a “Green Homes Challenge” residential engagement campaign
- Training of engaged volunteers as “Community Energy Champions” who could help to educate the community-at-large on topics related to energy and sustainability
- Development of a Cleantech demonstration policy that would allow local companies to deploy their clean technology products on public facilities
- Installation of Solar PV, LED Streetlighting, and other upgrades on City facilities
- Coordination with FUSD to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at school sites

The Commission stressed that the City needs to come up with simple ways of presenting information and resources to residents, as the biggest challenges tend to be:

1. People don’t know where to start, and
2. People don’t have the money to complete the projects

The Commission suggested that a toolkit be developed to guide residents through easy and effective energy saving opportunities and provides them with information on local financing options for larger, more expensive projects.

DiFranco will consider the recommendations made by the Commission and work on completing the Energy Plan for submission by the November 10 deadline, the final plan will be sent to the Commission after its submission, and will be discussed in greater detail at the next Commission meeting.

5.3 Staff Updates

Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco reminded the Commission that the City’s Make a Difference Day Sabercat Creek Cleanup Event would take place Saturday, October 25 from 9am to 12pm. Commissioner Rasheed and Chair Godfrey said that they planned on attending.

5.5 Commissioner Announcements – None

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator